



January 28, 2008

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Statement
ET Docket No. 04-186

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is written on behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers and MRFAC, Inc. ("NAM/MRFAC"). NAM/MRFAC wish to register their support for unlicensed use of television spectrum with appropriate protections for incumbent services.

Background

By way of background, the NAM represents an employment base of 18 million people manufacturing products in the United States, and is the nation's largest and oldest multi-industry trade association. The NAM represents 14,000 member companies (including 10,000 small and mid-sized manufacturers) and 350 member associations serving manufacturers and employees in every industrial sector and all 50 states. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the NAM has 10 additional offices across the country.

MRFAC is one of the Commission's certified frequency coordinators for the private land mobile bands from 30 to 900 MHz. MRFAC began its operations over 25 years ago as the frequency coordinating arm for the NAM. For the past two decades, MRFAC has operated independently, providing coordination and licensing-related services for manufacturers and other industrial and business entities. MRFAC has long participated in spectrum rule makings affecting the interests of manufacturers.

Discussion

In its recent Public Notice dated January 17, 2007, the Commission announced the commencement of the second round of testing for four candidate unlicensed devices. NAM/MRFAC are hopeful that this round of testing will yield favorable results regarding the ability of unlicensed devices to operate on a non-interference basis with incumbent services.

NAM/MRFAC see great potential for industrial use of unlicensed devices in this spectrum. Manufacturing facilities increasingly have a need for the transmission of large quantities of data from one location on an industrial campus to another. For example, manufacturers have a need for the transmission of video from remote cameras protecting the perimeter of an industrial facility, as well as the transmission of data regarding assembly line and parts inventory status.

While NAM/MRFAC see important potential uses for TV white space, it is no less important that protections be adopted up-front to ensure the absence of interference to incumbent services. Besides over-the-air television, these services include private land mobile radio operations operating in certain metropolitan areas on TV channels 14-20, as well as authorized wireless microphones which are often used in industrial facilities for motion picture/television production applications.


In order to maximize the utility of the spectrum for industrial use, and minimize the risk of harmful interference, certain requirements must be adopted in this proceeding. These would include a registration requirement for high power TV white space devices; the allowance of up to 4 watts power for fixed and mobile systems; and a requirement that unlicensed devices include a sensing capability. These and other requirements have been suggested by Motorola, and NAM/MRFAC urges the Commission to give consideration to such requirements.

Adoption of regulatory requirements along these lines is necessary to protect incumbent users from harmful interference. In addition, regulatory requirements must be backed up by an enforcement regime in order to ensure that, as licensed technology inevitably evolves over time, interference protection requirements remain meaningful. Steps like these will not only help to minimize the risk of interference, but also will enable licensed users to continuously evolve and update the technology deployed without constraint from unlicensed devices.

A copy of this letter is submitted for inclusion in the Docket as an ex parte statement.


Respectfully submitted,

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF MANUFACTURERS



Marc-Anthony Signorino
Director of Technology Policy

MRFAC, Inc.



Marvin W. McKinley
President